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## Unsatisfyingly Short Pieces for Piano

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Music Presentation

**UNSATISFYINGLY SHORT PIECES FOR PIANO**

Rachel Marx and David Vayo\*  
School of Music, Illinois Wesleyan University

This is an ever-growing collection of “rainy day” pieces. I enjoy writing miniatures for the piano, especially when I am working on a large composition project and need the adrenaline rush created by finishing a composition. "Searching for Christmas Gifts" was the first to be written and is programmatic, creating the image of a young child sneaking around to find where his parents have hidden his Christmas presents. As soon as he finds them, he must sneak away before being caught. "Jean-Claude" is named for my African dwarf frog that, sadly, is no longer living. However, when I wrote this piece, he was a very active and amusing aquatic frog! "80" was so named because it sounds just a little “off”. If it was straightforward, it might instead be called "90". The longest piece in this collection so far is "Elusion", written last fall. I had difficulty trying to pinpoint the best way to describe the piece and could not find any acceptable words for it. (Thus the name "Elusion".) "La Dee Dah" was written just in time for my senior recital in January. It has a light-hearted nature similar to those of "Searching for Christmas Gifts" and "Jean-Claude" but with a jazz influence. I intend to keep adding pieces to this collection and hope to eventually have several volumes of Unsatisfyingly Short Pieces for Piano.